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STATE SUPERINTENDENT *of* PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT *of* EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Joy Hofmeister

DATE: July 26, 2018

SUBJECT: Business Roundtable Grant

The Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE) applied for and received a \$10,000 grant sponsored by the Oklahoma Business Roundtable. The special project grant is effective for fiscal year 2019 (July 1, 2018-June 30, 2019). The Roundtable Board of Directors gave preference to projects having direct economic development features.

Required criteria for the grant application included the following:

Purpose: Providing teacher externships gives Oklahoma teachers insight and skills to share with their students related to students' potential career paths. The goal is to link Oklahoma students to Oklahoma workforce demands and to keep our youth in the state as they positively contribute to our state economy and quality of life.

Timeline: Summer 2018 is the target for externship participation which would require funding to be committed and distributed by the end of July 2018.

Project Description: The project mission is to connect business leaders with teachers to transform the classroom experience, inspiring students to become the next generation of innovators. This project places committed teachers into paid externships in companies in STEM fields so they can experience first-hand what careers might look like for their students. Any Oklahoma teacher is eligible to apply for the grant-funded externship program. Externships serve as a professional development vehicle for teachers to learn about the industry related to their campus programs. By engaging with and in industry-based practices, teachers are better able to craft curriculum that is meaningful and relevant. The Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE) is prepared with a resource toolkit which allows for ease of implementation for businesses to utilize a tailored application, vetting procedures and program structures. Additionally, the toolkit depicts the support structure that the OSDE is committed to leveraging before, during and after the externship experience. Lastly, the OSDE has developed an evaluative metric to assess quality and effectiveness of the implemented projects.